

**NASA Administrator
Daniel S. Goldin**

**Summary of Remarks at Delta Clipper Unveiling
White Sands, New Mexico
6/7/96**

As I drove up in the bus, I thought about the opportunity of being connected with the heavens today. Thirty-five years ago, we started sending people into space and with the exception of nine missions, we have been locked in Earth orbit for 35 years. We have been locked in Earth orbit because we have been flying vehicles based on ballistic missile technology and based on technology of the 1950's, and that's not what America is about.

America is about opening the space frontier and doing bold new things. I would like to salute every human being that participated in the development and design of that vehicle sitting out there. Today is a stepping stone because we are going to prove out some very, very crucial technologies. But more than that, it's a signal that we are going to open the space frontier. We are going to leave Earth orbit, and America is going to lead the world in space in the 21st Century, and the DC-XA is the first step in that direction.

I would hope that every child in school today will have a hope that they could be able to go into space some decades from now because of the work that is going to take place here. It's fitting that it is here in White Sands, and it's fitting that the operational team numbers 30 people not 30,000 people like we have on some other vehicles. This is the difference and this is the change. We are going to spend our dollars very wisely, to put it into breaking the barriers of space flight and not to subsidize a bunch of people here on the ground. It's a new direction, it's a new way and it's an unbelievably exciting place to be.

We are going to keep doing it because some of the planes are going to crash and some of them are going to fly. But each time we have a problem we are going to pick ourselves up and keep on going,

and not look back but look forward. We are going to have a nice smooth transition. We are going to fly the shuttle safely until we can replace it. But by God, we are going to replace the shuttle. There are wonderful people working on the shuttle. They have reduced the operating cost of that shuttle by \$1 billion a year to make funds available to do this, but they are doing it by flying it safely. This is going to be wonderful.

You know, through out history there have been people who know with certainty what can't be done. Lord Kelvin of the Royal Physics Society in England, before the Wright Brothers, said, "It will be impossible to have a heavier than air ship." But the Wright Brothers did not listen to him. Daniel Webster stood on the floor of the U. S. Senate and he said, "Why explore west of the Mississippi River? It is a barren wasteland full of savages and wild beasts." Louis and Clark and President Jefferson knew different and we wouldn't be standing here today if we listened to Daniel Webster. Now there were many, many people some years ago who knew with certainty that for another 10, 20, 30 years we could extend the ballistic missile technology of the 1950's and keep America strong. They said, "It is impossible to build a single-stage-to-orbit." But there is a gentleman who had a vision. A gentleman named General Daniel O. Graham. He pushed and he prodded.

As a result of his vision, the United States set forth on the program to build the DC-X. Lt. General Daniel Graham was a great man and I had the privilege of knowing him and interacting with him, meeting his family. We awarded him the highest honor that NASA could award a civilian but Lt. General Daniel Graham is not with us. We think today it is very, very appropriate to recognize the vision of Lt. General Daniel Graham. A man who knew what could be done, that didn't react to those who knew with certainty what couldn't be done. So we're are going to unveil a new patch today. The patch says on top, "The Clipper Graham." It is no longer the DC-XA but the Clipper Graham. Dedicated to the memory of Lt. General Daniel O. Graham. We have 500 patches and everyone is going to go home with a patch and after the flight today this is the symbol that goes on this machine and it is no longer the DC-XA, it's the Clipper Graham. It will be the first of the series of many, many vehicles and it really gives me tremendous pride to do this.

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White Sands, New Mexico
June 7, 1996

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